

for the blessings we have received, I would ask that we pause a moment and think of those less fortunate among us. Yesterday we learned from USDA's annual hunger survey that more than 35 million people in the United States are food insecure; they either suffer from hunger or must sacrifice other essential items for food. Tragically, of these 35 million individuals, 12 million are children. Unfortunately, the number of the hungry among us is increasing. While we, as a government, are taking steps in the right direction, we have a long way to go.

One step we can take is to pass the Federal Food Donation Act, which I introduced today. This legislation would require executive agencies who serve food on their premises to encourage the donation of excess food to non-profit organizations. Such "food rescue" efforts can be particularly useful to the more than 43,000 soup kitchens and food pantries on the front lines battling hunger. As we have celebrated Veterans Day this week, it is important to remember that one out every four homeless individuals is a veteran. Often, the beneficiaries of food rescue efforts serve the homeless community and these veterans.

I would like to particularly thank the dedicated individuals at Rock and Wrap It Up! for their efforts in conceiving and promoting this legislation. This non-profit organization has specialized in food recovery and has been "thinking outside the box" in the battle against hunger for years. I appreciate their efforts and look forward to working with them for passage of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, the bottom line we must be aware of is this: the cost of food is increasing. As we prepare our Thanksgiving dinners we will likely hear a lot about the impact of inflation, rising transportation costs, and increasing commodity prices on our family budgets. The effects of rising prices have already been felt by our partners who serve the hungry. More resources are clearly needed. The Federal Food Donation Act may be a small step in the overall battle against hunger, but it is one worth taking.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF SENATOR ROBERT
C. BYRD

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, on November 20, 1917, in Wilkesboro, North Carolina, the world received Cornelius Calvin Sale. Born to a poor, struggling couple, the child was too soon taken from the arms of his loving mother, when she fell victim to the devastating influenza epidemic. The loss of his mother separated him from his siblings and from his father, a man with talented hands and an honest heart, when he was sent to live with an aunt and uncle in the coalfields of southern West Virginia. There his name was changed and so was the course of history for my State and our Nation.

This November 20 marks the 90th birthday of ROBERT C. BYRD. He holds the title of the longest-serving Senator in the history of our Nation. He has held more leadership positions than any other Senator, has cast more rollcall

votes than any other Senator, and served on a Senate committee longer than any other Senator. In fact, he has achieved so many records during his tenure of public service that the Guinness people could devote an entire book just to him.

Here in the Congress, ROBERT C. BYRD has seen majorities come and go. He has occupied the suite of the Majority Leader and been banished to the Elba of the Appropriations wing. He has felt the sting of legislative defeat, relished in legislative victory. He has watched good men, full of hope, come to the Congress and build long successful careers in public service. He has seen many ambitious men leave public life, sometimes bitter and frustrated, sometimes drawn to the big paychecks of the private sector. Through it all, his love of the U.S. Senate and his faith in our constitutional form of government has never wavered.

In both his public and private lives, he has been guided by the old values he learned growing up in the West Virginia hills, reading the Bible, and listening to his "old Mom's" prayers, offered up in dim lantern light.

And he has been the most devoted of husbands. In fact, he remains so. Even after his dear Erma left this Earth to become an angel in Heaven, his love for her—true love—has endured and bolstered him in times of trial.

So much has been written, so many speeches delivered, about the senior Senator from West Virginia, that it may be a fool's errand to even try to say anything about him that has not been repeated many times over. However, in anticipation of this special occasion, I choose to mention one particular thing for which the people of our State are most grateful to him—ROBERT C. BYRD has given us the gift of hope.

From his youthful days of coal camp life in an era of depression, through his climb to the pinnacle of governmental power, ROBERT C. BYRD's life has been and remains an inspiration to me and to every man, woman, and child who has ever doubted themselves, or been afraid to try to overcome life's considerable challenges. He is our hero.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Creator for Senator BYRD and all that he has done for this Nation. May he have the happiest of birthdays, and may he some day look back on his 90th year as just one notch on his way to scoring yet another amazing record.

RECOGNIZING DEBRA BROWN
STEINBERG

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the incredible work of Debra Brown Steinberg.

Ms. Steinberg has been an uncompromising advocate for the families of the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center. She was quick to action taking an integral role in creating the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest 9/11 Project in early October 2001. She also drafted the New York City Bar Association's comments for the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund which was vital in creating the fund. This fund delivered a total of \$7 billion to family members of the victims of the 9/11 attacks.

But her work did not end there. For the last 6 years she has continued to care for the families of those who were lost. She has worked tirelessly for the family members of the victims who could not mourn freely—the widows and orphans of the victims who were immigrants on 9/11. Today in New York City there are 9/11 widows and orphans who fear going to the World Trade Center site because they may be identified for deportation.

Ms. Steinberg speaks often with these families offering them her legal expertise. She used this expertise to help draft the September 11 Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act, H.R. 1071. This bill gives Congress the tools to provide legal immigration status to the 9/11 victim's family members. It grants permanent resident status to the spouses and children of undocumented immigrants who died on 9/11. To qualify these families must have been beneficiaries of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001. Ms. Steinberg continues to push for its passage by consistently offering her talent and passion to our offices.

Her selfless and persistent efforts have given these families, victims of 9/11, comfort and hope that they will be able to soon grieve and live without fear. As I recognize her work today I hope we can honor it by passing the September 11 Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act.

THE BOTTLE RECYCLING CLIMATE
PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Bottle Recycling Climate Protection Act of 2007, which would establish a national program to promote the recycling of beverage containers, including bottled water, iced teas, sports drinks and carbonated beverages, by offering a national 5 cent deposit. This bill would help move the Nation towards a future of less global warming pollution by reducing the energy and related heat-trapping emissions needed to create the materials used in new beverage containers.

Twenty-five years ago, my state of Massachusetts became one of the first states to pass a state bottle bill in order to encourage the recycling of cans and bottles. Since its inception, Massachusetts' bottle law has been a tremendous success. In 2006, over 2 billion beverage containers were sold in Massachusetts and nearly 70 percent of them were recycled rather than littered or incinerated.

Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously called the States "laboratories of democracy"—the places where innovative solutions to the Nation's challenges are developed. Nowhere is the States' pioneering role in our system more vital today than in the area of energy independence and global warming. On these critical issues, the States are in the vanguard of a green energy revolution. In the case of the bottle bill, 11 states have acted as laboratories for more than two decades, very successfully. Now is the time to move this important program onto the national stage.

Recycling and reusing these bottles not only reduces the amount of litter that ends up in

our streets and the amount of trash that ends up in our landfills, it also dramatically reduces the amount of global warming pollution that ends up in our atmosphere. If all of the 58 billion aluminum cans that are thrown away every year in the United States were recycled, it would cut the emissions of heat-trapping carbon pollution by nearly 6 million tons—the equivalent of the pollution from more than one million cars. Cans made from recycled aluminum use 95 percent less energy than cans manufactured with new materials.

In addition, plastic water and juice bottles have become increasingly prevalent since many state bottle bills were initially adopted. While less than half of the aluminum cans sold every year are recycled, an astounding 80 percent of the 60 billion plastic bottles sold each year are not recycled. Including plastic bottles in a national bottle bill would lead to significant savings in energy and oil consumption. One ton of recycled plastic saves 5,774 kWh (kilowatt hours) of electricity and 685 gallons of oil.

I am proud to introduce this important bill today on America Recycles Day. Passing this bill would allow Congress to send the nation a global warming message in a bottle. We can still quench our thirst while reducing our thirst for energy. And we can have carbon dioxide in our fizzy drinks, while cutting down on heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed rollcall vote No. 1093 on November 14, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 1093: "yes."

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 3845, the PROTECT (Providing Resources Officers and Technology to Eradicate Cyber Threats) Act. This legislation takes a strong stand against the exploitation of our children on the Internet.

H.R. 3845 will authorize the largest increase ever in funding for state and local law enforcement agencies to investigate child exploitation, through the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force program.

Expanding the ICAC program will build state and local capacity and also modernize the way U.S. law enforcement at every level investigate crimes against children.

Current technologies have assisted local law enforcement to identify over 500,000 individuals trafficking child pornography. Without the necessary resources, however, local law enforcement officials have only been able to investigate 2 percent of these cases.

The PROTECT Act would provide our law enforcement officials the tools and resources to investigate and prosecute these offenders.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the PROTECT Act to ensure the safety of our Nation's children.

ON THE PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION TO IMPEACH VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD B. CHENEY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, last week, the House considered a privileged resolution, offered by the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Kucinich, to impeach the Vice President. I supported an effort to refer that measure to committee where it can get the attention it deserves.

Having served on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I have repeatedly condemned how the administration presented evidence to Congress and the American public to justify military action against Iraq. In October 2002, I voted against the resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq in part because of concerns about the intelligence we were given. It is Congress's responsibility to investigate the administration's claims and actions, not only to understand to what extent the White House cherry-picked evidence to support a course of action, but also to prevent intelligence from being manipulated by policymakers in the future. Congress has held numerous hearings into these complex questions, and we will continue to be aggressive in fulfilling our oversight duties.

Frustration with the administration among the American public has become palpable, with some calling for the impeachment of senior elected officials. While I share the deep dissatisfaction that people have with the way our Nation is being led, we must be extremely cautious about how best to chart a new course. Impeachment is one of the strongest constitutional powers granted to Congress, and its exercise must be governed by the laws of this Nation and the rules of this House. While I respect the intentions of the gentleman from Ohio in offering his resolution, I believe that it would be premature for the Members of the House to vote on a matter of such gravity without the benefit of hearings and with imperfect information. For that reason, I supported its referral to committee.

When the American people elected a Democratic majority last November, we promised to lead the country in a new direction. We saw how the Nation's priorities had been ignored for 12 years under Republican rule in Congress, and we vowed to promote change. In the last 11 months, we have made tremendous progress—increasing the minimum wage, implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, restoring fiscal accountability to the federal budget, expanding access to higher education, investing in clean and renewable energy, and much, much more. We built on those successes just last week, when we passed a middle-class tax relief package that would prevent 23 million Americans from being harmed by the alternative minimum tax,

as well as an appropriations bill that would make long overdue investments in health care, medical research, education programs and veterans health care. Also, for the first time, the Bush administration is not getting a free pass from a rubber stamp Congress. We have aggressively investigated the activities of the executive branch, and through our oversight efforts, we have held the administration accountable for a number of its failures.

The will of the American people had been ignored for far too long, but this Congress has promised to address our Nation's most urgent needs. I will keep working to ensure that we pursue policies that reflect the priorities of all Americans so that we can put our country on the right path once again.

RECOGNIZING STEVE SCHAIKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Schainker for reaching an important milestone as a public servant to the people of Ames, Iowa.

For the past 25 years, Steve has served as Ames City Manager. After receiving his master's degree in public administration at the University of Indiana's School of Public and Environmental Affairs, he became the assistant to the Ames City Manager in 1979, taking over the city manager position in 1982.

Steve values citizens' opinions, thriving on direct contact and open accessibility with residents to aid in making decisions for the betterment of the community. He also works to foster a positive relationship with city employees, the city council, the Chamber of Commerce, and Iowa State University to bring the Ames community together. While serving as city manager, Steve has facilitated many successful projects to improve the lives of citizens including City Hall, CyRide transportation, and the new aquatic center.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Steve Schainker for his leadership and service to Ames. I consider it an honor to represent him in the United States Congress and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RECIPIENTS OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. MU NU CHAPTER'S ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AWARD AND R.W. SNOWDEN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the recipients of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Mu Nu Chapter's Academic Leadership Award and R.W. Snowden Scholarship Award. On Wednesday, November 14, 2007, the recipients of these awards were acknowledged for their outstanding achievements at an Omega Psi Phi Fraternity awards reception in Silver Spring, Maryland.